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**STATE ANNOUNCES INNOVATIVE POST-ADOPTIVE PROGRAM  
Tennessee Adoptive Families Empowered, Educated**

**NASHVILLE** – The Department of Children’s Services announced today a new statewide post-adoption program in partnership with licensed child-placing agencies AGAPE Child and Family Services, Catholic Charities of Tennessee and Harmony Adoptions of Tennessee.

Tennessee Adoption Support and Preservation (ASAP) is a collaborative program formed from the State’s open bid contract process, which will provide a range of post-adoptive support services to more than 3000 adoptive families across the state.

DCS Executive Director of Child Permanency Elizabeth Black said ASAP will improve the accessibility, quality and delivery of post-adoptive services by providing accurate and easy to follow resource information and ongoing support for Tennessee families.

“The ASAP project will streamline post-adoptive services such as education, needs assessment, counseling, respite services and crisis intervention,” Black said. “We desire to provide families with a sense of empowerment. We want them to know they will be provided with the tools they need to be successful and remain intact.”

Knoxville based Harmony Adoptions of Tennessee will act as lead agency for all program implementation and reporting matters. Founded in 1996, the not-for-profit child-placing agency will work with AGAPE and Catholic Charities to facilitate service delivery through three regional resource centers located in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis. Eight satellite locations will be located in Chattanooga, Clarksville, Columbia, Cookeville, Jackson, Johnson City, Morristown and Union City.

Harmony Adoptions Executive Director Pam Wolf said her agency is ready for the challenge and is looking forward to the unique collaboration slated to begin May 24.

“We have been helping adoptive families grow through education, counseling and post-adoptive services for nearly 10 years,” Wolf said. “We believe that adoption is a life-long journey requiring continued support, and we are looking forward to providing that much needed support for all of Tennessee’s adoptive families.”

For more information on DCS Adoptions visit [www.state.tn.us/youth/adoption](http://www.state.tn.us/youth/adoption). Additional information about Harmony Adoptions of Tennessee can be found at [www.harmony.cc](http://www.harmony.cc).

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